

REMARKS

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-19 will have been canceled and Claims 20-33 will have been added. Accordingly, Claims 20-33 remain pending in the present application. By the present Amendment and Remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections and objections have been overcome, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive and required a new title. Applicant has amended the title so as to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the aforementioned objection to the specification.

Canceled Claims

Applicant canceled Claims 1-19 without prejudice and reserves the right to re-present these claims at a later time. As such, Applicant submits that the objections and rejections with respect to these claims are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw any objections and rejections directed to these claims.

New Claims

Applicant has added new Claims 20-33. These claims find support in the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added.

The new claims recite, *inter alia*, ... a separation control section controlling timing of starting a separating operation in the separating section based on the information on the material of the document inputted by the input section.

Applicant submits that MORIGAMI does not teach the aforementioned features. MORIGAMI merely teaches inputting the kind of recording sheets at column 10, lines 8-10, controlling an operation to transport recording sheets on a sorter 100 at column 18, lines 53-60,

selecting colors to form an image in column 13, lines 50-53, and restricting the number of times for a document feeder to circulate documents when the documents are thin paper.

Application is Allowable

Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim on the present invention meets the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of such claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention as recited in Claims 20-33. The applied reference of record has been discussed and distinguished, while the significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 502456.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 19, 2008

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